



468506

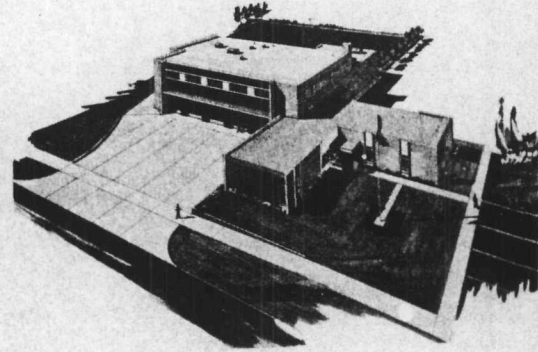


City of **ELYRIA**

TELEPHONE 322-1024

40 CEDAR ST.

ELYRIA, OHIO 44035



LLOYD A. KINNEY, Fire Chief

March 22, 1979

Fire #415 - Oil slick on Black River & Washington Ave. bridge.

At 2015 hours Inspector Howard was called at home by the dispatcher and was told about a problem they were having with a brownish substance floating down the river. The Emergency Crew was dispatched at 1823 hours, and they first saw the substance at the Washington Ave. bridge across the river. They also received more calls later, and they traced it as coming from a tile from the rear of Chemical Recovery. When Assistant Chief Dunlap found out that the substance appeared to be coming from Chemical Recovery, he called me as he knew I had been at Columbus for a hearing with the State Attorney General and State Fire Marshal about their operation.

I went to Lucust St. immediately, and opened up two manholes in the center of the street in front of Chemical Recovery, to see if the material was coming down the street, but the water was clear. I then saw an employee of Chemical Recovery. I told him about the problem and asked permission to check the river bank, and he said "OK". I went down to the river, and there was a brownish-black substance floating on the water. The EPA boom was not in the river at this time. I then looked closer at the bank and could see that this material was running down from the top, and I followed it to a hole which was shoveled into the dirt dike which the State Fire Marshal made them put in. Inside the dike there was also this brownish-black substance floating on top of the water and was on the ground. I then went inside the building and talked to the employee who gave me permission to go down and check the river out. The employee-operator was TY ST. CERE who informed me as follows:

"Today we had alot of rain outside, when it rains real hard the runoff goes down the hill and runs right into the building. The sump pump in the floor would not pump it out fast enough so there was around 4 inches of water on the floor which ran out a drain hole in the right rear corner of the building. The water and some sludge then ran into the dike area. Ty St. Cere was told never to let water stand in this dike area, so he then took a shovel, digging a hole into the dike letting the water out into the river with the sludge also."

This material which they were running was called "JAMESTOWN" - Ty did not know what was in it, all he knew was it was being ran for the Jamestown Paint and Varnish Company of Jamestown, New York. I used the hydro-carbon indicator in the dike area and I received readings of 800 parts per million and .25 on the explosive range. I then took samples of the sludge in the dike and also from the sludge pit inside the building. I did explain to Ty that the dike should not have been opened, and if the EPA boom was in place it would have contained the material here.

I then left Chemical Recovery and notified the State Fire Marshal's Inspector Graves who was in Columbus also at this hearing, and I also contacted Mr. Greg Worcester, Asst. City Chemist Elyria Health Dept.

Friday morning - March 30th, I took the samples to the Health Dept. and left them with Mr. Bartha and discussed the problem with him, and I left for a Seminar at Lorain

County Community College and meet State Marshal Inspector Graves. While at the college, we called Mr. Dick Cross who is on the Fire Prevention Bureau at the Fire Marshal's office and also was at this hearing, and he was to call the EPA at Columbus and also notify the State Fire Marshal and the State Attorney General's office.

After the seminar we (Inspector Howard and State Inspector Graves) then drove down past Chemical Recovery and looked across the river and the EPA team from Columbus was down by the river checking the river out. The EPA boom was in place when they arrived and absorbant pads were in place also. We did not meet EPA at Chemical Recovery but waited at the end of the street and talked to them. EPA was notified at this time of our meeting at Chemical Recovery Tuesday morning at 0930 hours and they are supposed to attend also.

Respectfully submitted by,

Vincent L. Howard

Vincent L. Howard
Inspector, Elyria Fire Prevention Bureau

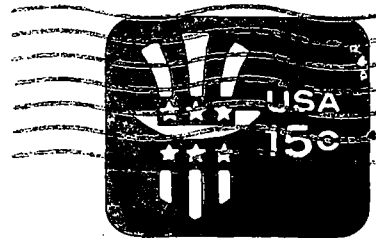
VIH:cc
cc:2

Insp. Vincent L. Howard

Elyria Fire Dept.

40 Cedar St.

Elyria, Ohio 44035



noted

Enforcement
[Signature]
[Vertical lines]

Ms. Barbara Megel
Attorney, Legal Support Division
Water and Hazardous Materials
USEPA Region 5
230 South Dearborn St.
Chicago, Illinois 60604